



American Lamb Council



American Sheep Industry Association, Inc.
www.sheepusa.org



American Wool Council

October 19, 2004

Mr. Kenneth R. Payne, Chief
Marketing Programs Branch
Livestock and Seed Program – AMS
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Room 2638-S, Stop 0251
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W
Washington, D.C. 20250-0251

Re: **Docket number LS-04-06, October 15, 2004; Federal Register – page 61159,
“Lamb Promotion and Research Program: Procedures for the Conduct of a
Referendum”**

Dear Mr. Payne:

The American Sheep Industry Association, Inc. (ASI) is pleased to comment in support of the proposed procedures to conduct a referendum on continuation of the American Lamb program. ASI is the national trade association of the nation's sheep producers representing 41 state organizations, as well as other allied members and affiliated groups. We appreciate the Agency publishing the rules for comment in a timely manner so that a nation-wide referendum can be implemented in late January/early February.

The proposed procedures clearly provide adequate opportunity for the nation's producers, feeders and first handlers to participate in the referendum. Procedures outline accurate definitions for eligibility to vote and rules for the production vote, as well as the individual vote that are required for this referendum.

The American Lamb Board aggressively promotes American lamb and has implemented a number of critical programs funded by all three sectors of our lamb industry, producers through first handlers.

We urge final publication of the referendum procedures and announcement of the referendum dates before year-end to allow our association and state affiliates to publicize the opportunity to vote.

Sincerely,

Guy Flora
President